HIS MAJESTIES MESSAGE To both Houses of PARLIAMENT, 28. April. 1642.

Declaring the Reasons of His Refusall to passe the Bill lately sent unto Him for setling of the MILITIA.

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Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majestie: And by the Assignes of JOHN BILL.
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Declaring the Reasons of His Refusall to passe the Bill lately sent unto Him for setling of the MILITIA.

WE have, with great deliberation and patience, weighed and considered (it concerning Us much to weigh the consequences of every Law before we passe it) your Bill lately sent to Us for the setling of the Militia, and though it hath not been usuall to give any Reason for Our refusall to passe any Bill (it being absolutely in Our power to passe

or not passe any Act sent unto Us by you, if we conceive it prejudicial to Our Self, or inconvenient for Our Subjects, for whom we are trusted, and must one day give an accompt; yet in this Busines of the Militia, which being mis-understood amongst Our good Subjects, hath been used as an Argument, as if we were not vigilant enough for the publique Safety. And lest we should be thought lesse constant in Our Resolutions, and this Bill to be the same we sent you, we have thought fit to give you, and all the World particular satisfaction why we cannot, ought not, must not passe this Bill, being the first publique Bill (to Our remembrance) we have refused this Parliament. And therefore we must complain, That having expressed Our Self so clearly and particularly to you in this point, you should presse any thing upon Us, which

you

you could not but foresee that we must refuse, except We departed from those Resolutions, grounded upon so much Reason, we had so earnestly before acquainted you with, and against which you have not given one Argument to satisfie Our Judgement.

We are pleased that you have declined the unwarrantable course of your Ordinance (to the which we are confident Our good Subjects would never have yeelded consent) and chosen this onely right way of imposing on Our People, which we would have allowed, but for the reasons hereafter mentioned.

We refused to consent to your Ordinance, as for other things, so for that the power was put into the persons nominated therein, by direction of both Houses of Parliament, excluding Us from any Power in the disposition or execution of it together with you: We then advize

you

you, for many reasons, That a Bill should be prepared: And after, in Our Answer of the 26. of March last, to the Petition of both Houses, we told you, If such a Bill should be prepared, with that due regard to Us, and care of Our People, in the limitation of the Power and other Circumstances, we should recede from nothing we formerly expressed. what passed (enough to have discouraged Us from being further solicitous in that Argument) after Our full and gracious Answers, we are content to forget. when we resolved of Our Journey into Ireland (so that by reason of Our absence there might be no want of setting that Power, besides complying with your fears) we sent (together with the Message of that purpose) a Bill for the setting that power for a yeer, hoping in that time to return to you, and being sure that in much lesse

time

time you might do the business for which you seemed at first to desire this; which was, That you might securely consider Our Message of the twentieth of January last. By that Bill We consented to those names you proposed in your Ordinance, and in the limitation of the power, provided that Our Self should not be able to execute any thing, but by your advice; and when We should be out of the Kingdom, the sole execution to be in you, with many other things of so Arbitrary and Uncircumscribed a power, that We should not have consented to, but with reference to the absence of Our Own Person out of the Kingdom, and thought it the more sufferable, in respect the time was but for a year: whether this be the Bill you have now sent Us to passe, let all the World judge:

You have, by this Bill, now ten-

need to Us (without running hazard of Us) put the power of the whole Kingdom, the Life and Liberty of the Subjects of all degrees and qualities into the hands of particular men, for two yeres. Can you imagine we will trust such an absolute power in the hands of particular persons, which we refused to command to both Houses of Parliament? Nay, is not the power it self too absolute, and unlimited to bee committed into any private hands? Hath not Sir John Hotham's high insolency shewed us what we may expect from an extraordinary legal power, when he by a power, not warranted by Law, dares venture upon a Treasonable Disobedience? Will we would willingly know (and indeed such an Account in ordinary Civility we might have expected) why we are, by this Act, absolutely excluded from any power or authority

rity in the execution of this Militia. Sure your Fears and Jealousies are not of such a nature as are capable of no other remedy then by leaving us no power in a point of the greatest importance, in which God and the Law hath trusted Us solely, and which we were contented to share with you by Our Bill, by putting it, and a greater, into the hands of particular Subjects. What would all Christian Princes think of Us after We had passed such a Bill? How would they value Our Sovereignty? And yet sure Our Reputation with forreign Princes is some ground of your security. Nay, We are confident, by that time you have thoroughly considered the possible consequence of this Bill upon your selves, and the rest of Our good Subjects, you, and they will give Us thanks for not consenting to it, finding their Condition (had it passed) not to

have been so pleasing unto them; we hope this animadversion will be no breach of your Privilege in this throng of Businesse and distemper of Affections, tis possible second thoughts may present somewhat to your considerations which escaped you before.

We passed this Parliament, at your entreaty, a Bill concerning the Captives at Algiers, and waved many Objections of Our own to the contrary, upon Information that the Businesse had been many moneths considered by you, whether it prove suitable to your Intentions, or whether you have not by some private Order suspended that Act of Parliament, upon view of the Indentings, you best know: As likewise what other great alterations you have made in other Bills passed this Session, we cannot passe over the passing their names out of this Bill, upon

before

before you recommended to Us in your Ordinance; it seems, not thinking fit to trust those who would obey no Guide but the Law of the Land (We imagine you would not wish We should in Our estimation of others follow that dour Rule) and the leaving out, by speciall provision, the present Lord Major of London, as a person in your dis-favour; whereas, We must tell you, His demeanour hath been such, that the City, and the whole Kingdom, is beholden to him for his example.

To conclude, We do not finde Our Self possessed of such an excesse of Power that it is fit to transfer or consent it should be in other Persons (as is directed by this Bill) and therefore We shall rely upon that Royall Right and Jurisdiction which God and the Law hath given Us for the suppressing of Rebellion, and resisting forreign

Protestion, which hath preserved this Kingdom in the time of all Our Ancestours, and which We doubt not but We shall be able to preserve: And not more for Our own Honour and Right, than for the Liberty and Safety of Our People, We cannot consent to pass this Bill.

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